

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1-30.

31. (New) A method for manufacturing a honeycomb formed body by use of a forming material including water and two or more types of aggregate particulate materials containing fine particles having an average particle diameter of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less, the method comprising:

a mixing step of mixing (first mixing) the two or more types of aggregate particulate materials to thereby obtain a forming blend (dry powder); and

a kneading step of adding water to the forming blend (dry powder) and kneading them to thereby obtain a clay,

wherein at least the mixing step mixes the materials so as to inhibit generation of an agglomerate and set a TG mixture degree to 0.2 or less by use of either of the aggregate particulate materials which are classified beforehand or whose surfaces are coated before start of the mixing of the aggregate particulate materials and means for mixing the materials while applying pressurizing vibration to the materials in order to avoid the mixture of the agglomerate into the clay, and

the clay obtained in this manner is formed into a honeycomb structure in which a large number of cells are partitioned and formed by partition walls, and dried to obtain the honeycomb formed body.

32. (New) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, further comprising:

the kneading step of kneading the forming blend (wet powder) to obtain the clay after the mixing performed by further adding water to the forming blend (dry powder) obtained by the first mixing and mixing (second mixing) them to obtain a forming blend (wet powder).

33. (New) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein when water is added, a surfactant is further added as a dispersant.

34. (New) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein the pressurizing vibration is generated by containing the forming material and pebbles in a container, and vibrating the container.

35. (New) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein the mixing step is performed using a mixer having a stirring blade, and the mixing is carried out by rotating the stirring blade to stir the forming material while applying a shearing force to the forming material.

36. (New) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein the mixing step and the kneading step are performed with individual devices, respectively, and a mixer which performs the mixing step is directly connected to a kneader which performs the kneading step.

37. (New) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein as the aggregate particulate material, there is used a cordierite forming material which contains alumina ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) fine particles having an average particle diameter of

10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and/or aluminum hydroxide ( $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ ) fine particles having an average particle diameter of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

38. (New) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein water is added while sprayed.

39. (New) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein a material containing a powder passed through a sieve whose aperture is  $4/5$  or less of a slit width of a die for extrusion-molding the honeycomb formed body is used as the aggregate particulate material.

40. (New) A honeycomb filter comprising: a porous honeycomb structure having a large number of cells formed by partitioning the structure by porous partition walls; and plugging portions which alternately plug one opening and the other opening of each of the large number of cells, the filter being constituted so that foreign matters are trapped by the partition walls, when a fluid to be treated introduced into a part of the cells passes through the partition wall to flow into the adjacent cell, the honeycomb filter having less internal defects, wherein a soot leak cell ratio evaluated by a soot printing test is 1 cell/1000 cells or less.

41. (New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 40, wherein at least the porous honeycomb structure is constituted of cordierite.

42. (New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 40, wherein the porous honeycomb structure is manufactured by the method for manufacturing a honeycomb formed body by use of a forming material including water and two or more types of aggregate

particulate materials containing fine particles having an average particle diameter of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less, the method comprising:

a mixing step of mixing (first mixing) the two or more types of aggregate particulate materials to thereby obtain a forming blend (dry powder); and

a kneading step of adding water to the forming blend (dry powder) and kneading them to thereby obtain a clay,

wherein at least the mixing step mixes the materials so as to inhibit generation of an agglomerate and set a TG mixture degree to 0.2 or less by use of either of the aggregate particulate materials which are classified beforehand or whose surfaces are coated before start of the mixing of the aggregate particulate materials and means for mixing the materials while applying pressurizing vibration to the materials in order to avoid the mixture of the agglomerate into the clay, and

the clay obtained in this manner is formed into a honeycomb structure in which a large number of cells are partitioned and formed by partition walls, and dried to obtain the honeycomb formed body.